WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1.   A method for integrated management of medical information comprising the steps of:

maintaining a digital database of medical information including product, product

5   source and procedure;

indexing the digital database of medical information by product, product source and

procedure;

receiving a query for medical information;

searching the digital database of medical information by an index in response to the

10   query for medical information;

cross referencing the information found by searching to another index;

filtering the response as a function of preference data;

transmitting information found by searching and cross referencing;

wherein access is provided to the medical information and the corresponding cross

15   references.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein access to the medical information and the

corresponding cross references is a function of the preference data.

20   3.   The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising formatting the information found

by searching and cross referencing so as to be indicative of a selection of the preference data.

4.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a selection of the preference data corresponds to qualifications of a particular user.

5.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a selection of the preference data

5   corresponds to a particular medical unit.

6.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the index used for searching the database corresponds to a medical procedure.

10   7.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a user may select products from a predetermined vendor for comparison.

8.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a user may select products and request additional information from a corresponding supplier without requiring further user action.

15   9.   The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of initiating a purchase request for selected products from a particular vendor.

10.   A system for integrated management of medical information in response to a request from a user computer comprising:

20   a database of medical information including product, product source and procedure;

            an index corresponding to the database of medical information by product, product

source and procedure;

communication device for receiving from a user computer a query for medical information;

search engine for searching the database of medical information by an index in

5   response to the query for medical information;

means for cross referencing the information found by searching to another index;

means for filtering the information found;

communication device for transmitting information found by the search engine and generated by the means for cross referencing to the user computer;

10   wherein the user computer is enabled to access the medical information and the corresponding cross references.

11.   The system as recited in claim 10 wherein the database further comprises preference data.

15

12.   The system as recited in claim 11 further comprising means for formatting the information found by searching and cross referencing so as to be indicative of a selection of the preference data.

20   13.   The system as recited in claim 11 wherein the selection of the preference data corresponds to a particular user.

14.   The system as recited in claim 11 wherein the selection of the preference data corresponds to a particular unit.

15.   The system as recited in claim 11 wherein the preference data corresponds to a product supplier.

16.   The system as recited in claim 10 wherein the index used for searching the database corresponds to a medical procedure.

17.   The system as recited in claim 10 wherein the user may select products from a predetermined vendor for comparison.

18.   The system as recited in claim 10 wherein the user may select products and request additional information from a corresponding supplier without requiring further user action.

19.   The system as recited in claim 11 wherein the selection of the preference data corresponds a particular level of skill/training with respect to a product.

20.   The system as recited in claim 19 wherein the means for filtering is a function of the particular level of skill/training with respect to the product.